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# Press Release

## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES' CHILD WELFARE COMPUTER SYSTEM RECEIVES FEDERAL APPROVAL

**BALTIMORE, MD (August 18, 2003) --** The Maryland Children's Electronic Social Services Information Exchange computer system - MD CHESSIE recently received approval from the federal Department of Health and Human Services/ Administration for Children and Families for a revised Implementation Advance Planning Document.

MD CHESSIE is a Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System model scheduled for completion in FFY 2007. This system that will allow for uniformity of child welfare service delivery statewide and enhanced support of the children and families of Maryland. MD CHESSIE will particularly:

- Establish a statewide foster care and adoption payment issuance and reconciliation system that provides fiscal accountability, monitoring, controls, and reporting capabilities;
- Provide social workers with an interactive system which automates the case record, assists in scheduling appointments, generates reminders, prints notices, authorizes payments, and performs other administrative functions;
- Enable DHR to respond to the rapidly growing demands for child welfare data; and
- Facilitate good practice by including policy and procedural manuals with hypertext links. Additionally, the system will contain good-practice reminders

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and constraints.

Documentation submitted approval on June 11, 2003 by the agency included revised work plans, deliverable cost schedules for the Implementation Vendor, Deloitte Consulting, LLP, contracts for the Monitoring Vendor, MAXIMUS, Inc. and budget revisions.

DHR receives federal Title IV-E funds for the MD CHESSIE Project at the current Federal Financial Participation rate of fifty percent (50%). The approval of the IAPD Update encompasses all actual project expenditures for Federal Fiscal Year 1996 (FFY) through the third quarter of FFY 2003 in addition to estimated project costs through FFY 2004. The federal agency will review annual submissions of IAPD Updates to determine continued funding of the project.